

DETAILED ACTION

Art Unit - Location

1. The Art Unit location of this application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2617.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement submitted on Dec. 26, 2007 has been considered by the Examiner and made of record in the application file.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Andrew Harry on March 28, 2008.

5. **Claim 1** has been amended as follows:

On **line 11 of claim 1**, insert --not-- before "receiving";

On **line 13 of claim 1**, replace "none" with --any-- before "of";

On **line 15** of **claim 1**, insert --,-- before “and”;
On **line 18** of **claim 1**, insert --not-- before “receiving”;
On **line 19** of **claim 1**, replace “none” with --any-- before “of”;
On **line 21** of **claim 1**, insert --,-- before “and”;
On **line 24** of **claim 1**, replace “one” with --any-- before “of”;
On **line 27** of **claim 1**, insert --,-- before “and”;

6. **Claim 20** has been amended as follows:

On **line 10** of **claim 20**, insert --not-- before “receiving”;
On **line 11** of **claim 20**, replace “none” with --any-- before “of”;
On **line 13** of **claim 20**, insert --,-- before “and”;
On **line 17** of **claim 20**, insert --not-- before “receiving”;
On **line 18** of **claim 20**, replace “none” with --any-- before “of”;
On **line 20** of **claim 20**, insert --,-- before “and”;
On **line 23** of **claim 20**, replace “one” with --any-- before “of”;
On **line 25** of **claim 20**, insert --,-- before “and”;

7. **Claims 22-25** has been canceled.

8. **Claim 26** has been amended as follows:

On **line 12** of **claim 26**, insert --not-- before “receiving”;
On **line 14** of **claim 26**, replace “none” with --any-- before “of”;

On line 16 of **claim 26**, insert --,-- before “and”;

On line 20 of **claim 26**, insert --not-- before “receiving”;

On line 21 of **claim 26**, replace “none” with --any-- before “of”;

On line 23 of **claim 26**, insert --,-- before “and”;

On line 27 of **claim 26**, replace “one” with --any-- before “of”;

On line 29 of **claim 26**, insert --,-- before “and”;

Allowable Subject Matter

9. **Claims 1-2, 4-7, 19-21 and 26-30** are allowed and they were renumbered 1-14, respectively.

10. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent **claims 1, 20 and 26**, the best prior art found during the examination of the present application, **Nordman et al. (US Patent # 7194760 B2)**, fails to specifically disclose, teach, or suggest a communication device for carrying out communications with other communication devices by using a prescribed control protocol on a network, comprising: a first tentative address determination unit configured to determine a first tentative address which is a candidate for one of addresses managed by the prescribed control protocol; a packet transmission unit configured to transmit an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address to the network, in order to check presence/absence of another communication device which is using an address identical to the first tentative address; a confirmation packet transmission unit configured to transmit an address confirmation packet

containing the first tentative address to the network when not receiving, from another communication device within a first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, any of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address, and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device; and an address determination unit configured to set the first tentative address as an address of the communication device, when not receiving, within a second prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, any of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address, and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device, wherein, when receiving, from another communication device within the first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, any of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address, and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device, the confirmation packet transmission unit transmits an address confirmation packet containing a second tentative address which is different from the first tentative address to the network, and the use of the first tentative address is prohibited for a period of time no shorter than the first prescribed period of time.

Nordman et al. disclose a communication device for carrying out communications with other communication devices by using a prescribed control protocol on a network comprising (FIG. 2A for Bluetooth device 100 with central processor 210 as the prescribed control protocol): a first tentative address determination unit configured to determine a first tentative address which is a candidate for one of addresses managed by the prescribed control protocol (FIG. 2A for random number generator 230 to generate a pseudonym addresses, FIG. 1 and lines 50-55 of col. 4 for description of pseudonym);

a packet transmission unit configured to transmit an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address to the network, in order to check presence/absence of another communication device which is using an address identical to the first tentative address (FIG .2A for Bluetooth radio 206 as the packet transmission unit; FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, lines 14-16 and 25-34 of col. 10, for the address initialization packet, as packet buffer 240, that contains pseudonym address 520; lines 41-44 of col. 2 for checking presence/absence of another communication device and lines 1-12 of col. 3 for checking if the address is identical);

an address determination unit configured to set the first tentative address as an address of the communication device, (FIG. 2 A address manger table 232 lines 64-67 of col. 4).

However, Nordman et al. fail to disclose a confirmation packet transmission unit configured to transmit an address confirmation packet containing the first tentative address to the network when not receiving, from another communication device within a

first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, any of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address, and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device; and Nordman et al. fail further fail to specify the address determination unit configured to set the first tentative address as an address of the communication device, when not receiving, within a second prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, any of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address, and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device, wherein, when receiving, from another communication device within the first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, any of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address, and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device, the confirmation packet transmission unit transmits an address confirmation packet containing a second tentative address which is different from the first tentative address to the network, and the use of the first tentative address is prohibited for a period of time no shorter than the first prescribed period of time.

Therefore, **claims 1-2, 4-7, 19-21 and 26-30** are considered novel and non-obvious and are therefore allowed.

11. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

- a. Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 20040001007) disclose Network terminal having a configuration for assigning a network address to another
- b. Takanashi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 20030177249) disclose System and method for limiting unauthorized access to a network
- c. Ganesh et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 20020051450) disclose Network switching device with forwarding database tables populated based on use
- d. Hanson et al. (U.S. Patent # 7136645 B2) disclose Method and apparatus for providing mobile and other intermittent connectivity in a computing environment

- e. Focsaneanu (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 20040034705) disclose Connecting devices in a data network
- f. Krumel et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 20020083331) disclose Methods and systems using PLD-based network communication protocols
- g. Beasley et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 20020167965) disclose Link context mobility method and system for providing such mobility, such as a system employing short range frequency hopping spread spectrum wireless protocols
- h. Heinonen et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 20020105931) disclose Address sharing
- i. Vikberg et al. (U.S. Patent # 6925074 B1) disclose Mobile communication network
- j. Morris (U.S. Patent # 7042863 B1) disclose Efficient time-division multiplexed addressing protocol
- k. Rune (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 20010005368) disclose Method and communication system in wireless AD HOC networks
- l. Yasaki et al. (U.S. Patent # 7152114 B2) disclose System, server and terminal for switching line in local area network
- m. Saito et al. (U.S. Patent # 7136928 B2) disclose Communication device and communication control method using efficient Echonet address determination scheme

n. Saito et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 20020169886) disclose Communication device and communication control device for enabling operation of control protocol for one network on other types of networks

13. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Allahyar Kasraian whose telephone number is (571) 270-1772. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Rafael Pérez-Gutiérrez can be reached on (571) 272-7915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 571-272-4100.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

/Allahyar Kasraian/

Examiner, Art Unit 2617

A.K./ak

March 28, 2008

/Rafael Pérez-Gutiérrez/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617